also located near Ajmer. However, it is a matter of regret that there is no airport at Ajmer so far. The Government of Rajasthan has allotted land for the airport near Sarachana and the Airport Authority of India has also conducted a sruvey for this purpose.

The airport could not be constructed at Ajmer despite the Union Government's clearance and assurances given by the hon. President and the hon. Prime Minister. 786th urs of Sufi Saint Khawaja Saheb is going to be held in Ajmer in which 20-25 lakh people are expected to visit Ajmer. A large number of foreigners will also visit Ajmer. Financial resources of the State Government are limited. Therefore, it is requested that the Central Government should accord topmost priority for the construction of an airport in the historical town of Ajmer and it should be linked with other air routes of the country.

(ii) Need to start early the work on Jawaharpur Thermal Power Project at Etah, U.P.

PROF. OM PAL SINGH "NIDAR" (Jalesar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, then Governor of Uttar Pradesh had announced the Jawaharpur (Etah) Thermal Power Plant Project on 1st January, 1996 but the work on this project has not started so far. In such a situation, the work on project is not likely to be completed by the year 2000. This project has to be completed with Canadian collaboration and an agreement to this effect has already been signed. The project which involves an outlay of Rs. 800 crores would be a boon of 21st century for Etah and nearby areas. It would go a long way in tiding over the power shortage in U.P. and the country as a whole. However, so far neither a land survey has been conducted nor any delegation has visited this place during the year.

Therefore, I request the Central Government that work on Jawahar Pur Thermal Power Project should be started without further delay.

(iii) Need to give honorary membership to M.Ps and MLAs in the cantonment board of that area.

SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE (Jabalpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are 63 military cantonments in India. These are being managed by the officers of the Army cantonment Boards consist of elected councillars. This arrangement has been in existence since British time. After independence, the residents of these cantonments have been coming in contact with M.Ps and MLAs as voters. There are some items of work for which the MPs and MLAs have to spend funds in these cantonments from their own quota. Although no rule, law comes in the way doing such works a need is being felt that if a close contact between the MPs, MLAs and the Army officers of the Cantonment Boards is established, if would facilitate the smooth functioning of

Therefore, I request the Central Government that the concerned MPs and MLAs should be given ex-office membership of Cantonment Boards.

(iv) Need to rehabilitate workers displaced due to the Supreme Court's directive for closure of small Industrial units in Delhi.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL (Chandni Chowk, Delhi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as a result of the directive of Supreme Court for the closure of small and big industrial units in Delhi, lakhs of workers of these units are likely to be rendered unemployed. If these small industrial units are closed down, the families of these lakhs of workers will face starvation.

I would, therefore, request the Central Government that an effective scheme for the employment and rehabilitation of these workers should be formulated and industrial complex should be earmarked in N.C.R. territory and land should be allotted immediately for relocating the industrial units which are proposed to be closed down under the direction of the Supreme Court or the affected workers should be paid salary for six years.

(v) Need to Lower the Price of Free Sale of Wheat to Gujarat

[English]

SHRI SANAT MEHTA (Surendra Nagar) : Sir, Food Corporation of India has raised the price of free sale of wheat from Rs. 535.70 to Rs 730.00 per quintal in Gujarat. This price is Rs. 490/- in Punjab and Haryana. In Uttar Pradesh this price is Rs. 500 for Bareilly, and Rs. 540.00 for Lucknow and Kanpur. In Rajasthan it is Rs. 520.00 in Himachal it is Rs. 503.00, in Jammu & Kashmir same is Rs. 520.00, for Gwalior it is Rs. 600.00 and in Maharashtra it is Rs. 740.00.

Thus compared to almost all States it is higher in Gujarat and Maharashtra.

This will result in much higher price of products made out of wheat such as Rava, Atta, etc. and thereby higher price of Bakery products. Flour Mills in Gujarat and Maharashtra will not be able to compete with mills of other States.

In addition to higher price, even supply in January was inadequate. This might result in closure of flour mills in Gujarat. I request the Government of India to take immediate action before it is too late.

(vi) Need to open a godown of Food Corporation of India in Aurangabad, Bihar.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH (Aurangabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Aurangabad is an extremly backward district of Bihar. Most of the people the line below poverty line. The Government have decided to

provide wheat and rice at half price to the people living below poverty line. There is no F.C.I. godown or any other godown available in that district.

Therefore, I humbly urge the Central Government to open an F.C.I. godown in Aurangabad (Bihar) on priority basis.

(vii) Need to rejuvenate Barauni and Sindri Fertilizer works in Bihar

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH (Balia) (Bihar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, alongwith the Barauni Fertilizer Plant in Bihar, Sindri Fertilizer Factory may be rejunevated. The second fertilizer factory, Sindri, is in a worse condition. In order to increase agricultural production it is essential to rejuvenate the fertilizer plants all over the country. It is costlier to import Fertilizers while the same can be produced at cheaper prices by rejuvenating the fertilizer plants. Proposals from certain investors are pending with the Ministry. When the Government provides guarantee in the power section, it should provide guarantee for rejuvenation of fertilizer units also. It will be in the interests of the farmers as well as the country as a whole.

(viii) Need to provide separate quota of reservation in Government jobs to extreme backward classes

SHRI BRAHAMANAND MANDAL (Monghyr) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, sir, as per the Mandal Commission Report 27 per cent reservation is being provided to OBCs which constitute 52 per cent of the population. Out of this 52 per cent, 33 per cent population is extremely backward. As per the Mungerilal Commission Report, 12 per cent reservation is being provided in the State Government services of Bihar on the basis of Karpuri Thakur Formulae in the 26 per cent reserved posts. But in the selection for engineering services in 1993, 12 per cent posts reserved for the extremely backward were declared vacant. The basis on which this was done was that the candidates from the extremely backward classes did not participate in the interview. The candidates from the extremely backward classes moved the Patna High Court against if and then only they could get justice. If the extremely backward classes are not given the reservation in Central Services separately within the 27 per cent provided for all OBCs, they will not be able to get proper benefit of the reservation. The economic, political and social condition of the extremely backward classes is even worse than that of the scheduled castes. This can be verified from the statistics of their participation in the Central Services and State Government Services.

Therefore, the Government of India is urged upon to provide 17 per cent reservation separately for the extremely backward classes out of the 27 per cent posts reserved for OBCs and identify the extremely backward classes in other states as has been done in Bihar.

14.10 hrs.

RE : RALLY BY AGRICULTURAL WORKERS DEMANDING THE PASSAGE OF AGRICULTURAL WORKERS' BILL

[English]

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : Sir, with your consent, I rise to invite the attention of the hon. Minister of Labour to a huge rally of agricultural workers drawn from different parts of the country demanding immediate passage of the Agricultural Workers' Bill by this House.

As you know, there are thousands and thousands of agricultural workers who are denied the elementary right of having a decent life and living. It is not only the question of today but right from the year 1975, there have also been constant efforts for organising the rural workers and providing them with certain statutory rights. Several Committees were appointed and recommendations were also made by them. Even a draft legislation was also submitted to the Government.

It is also a part of the commitment made by the United Front Government for providing a legislation at the Central level for the agricultural workers. I think, the hon. Minister is also ready with a draft Bill. Several all-party meetings were also held at the national level.

I want that the Minister of Labour should given an assurance that a Bill of that nature guaranteeing certain rights to the agricultural workers and ensuring better living for the millions of the poorest people of our country would be passed during the Budget Session of this House.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : We all support it, Sir...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please speak one by one.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : They are demanding the minimum wages...*(Interruptions)* With that demand they have come here. Still they are dragging their feet.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : A detailed discussion should be held on it. What is the use of saying so?...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : They should get the minimum wages.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This is a very important subject. I request the hon. Minister to take note of it and say something.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : This is a long pending Bill.